

Members

Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Rose Antich-Carr
Ellen Clippinger
Cheryl Seelig
Sven Schumacher
Kimberly Tracy Armstrong
Judy Nevins
Mara Snyder
Dr. Judith Ganser
Mike Murray
Nathan Samuel
Carol Johnson
Reverend C L Day
Sharon Pierce



BOARD FOR THE COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE REGULATION

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Authority: IC 12-17.2-3.1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 24, 2003
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Sen. Rose Antich-Carr; Ellen Clippinger; Cheryl Seelig; Sven Schumacher; Judy Nevins; Mara Snyder; Mike Murray; Nathan Samuel; Carol Johnson; Reverend C L Day.

Members Absent: Sen. Connie Lawson; Kimberly Tracy Armstrong; Dr. Judith Ganser; Sharon Pierce.

Rep. Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

FSSA updates and responses to previous questions concerning child care providers/CCDF

Beth Eiler, Deputy Director, Bureau of Child Development, Division of Family and Children (DFC), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) stated that DFC continues, through a liaison, to work on the issues brought to the Board at the September 10, 2003, meeting concerning child care in Decatur County. She stated that she will keep the Board informed.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Ms. Eiler provided a handout and discussed use of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) money during federal fiscal years 2003 and 2004.² In response to questions from Rep. Crawford and Rev. Day, Ms. Eiler explained that TANF transfer money that was diverted was applied to TANF cash assistance.

Ms. Eiler discussed the cost and implementation of the swipe card for time and attendance records in the CCDF voucher program. She provided a handout concerning the rollout of the central reimbursement office³ beginning in October, 2003, with pilot programs in Madison County, then Delaware County, then Marion County, and anticipated statewide implementation during the summer of 2004, if the pilot program proceeds on schedule. In response to questions from Ms. Clippinger, Rep. Crawford, and Ms. Nevins, Ms. Eiler stated that: (a) FSSA will have the ability to adjust procedures as necessary based on pilot results; (b) expected results include decreased paperwork and decreased incidence of fraud; (c) a dedicated telephone line is not necessary with the swipe equipment that will be used, though stored swipe information will need to be downloaded via a telephone line; and (d) swipe equipment will be available to CCDF providers at no charge.

Ms. Eiler presented information concerning the sliding fee schedule for the CCDF program.⁴ She stated that the automated intake system that facilitates determination of fees is operational in all Indiana counties and explained that federal law requires a sliding scale. Ms. Eiler stated that the preamble to the federal law states that not more than 10% of a family's income may be required as a copayment under the CCDF program, that the national average is 6% of a family's income, and that Indiana's copayment ranges from 5% to 9% of a family's income.

Ms. Eiler discussed CCDF direct contract centers (formerly Title XX providers) and provided a handout concerning funding provided to those centers during federal fiscal years 2003 and 2004.⁵ She emphasized that direct contract centers are responsible for determining how allocated CCDF money is utilized and that decreases in funding must be accommodated by decisions of the centers. In response to questions from Rep. Crawford, Rep. Budak, Ms. Johnson, and Rev. Day, Ms. Eiler stated that: (a) the FFY 2004 information is speculative; (b) market rates are determined federally; (c) direct contract center funding that is unused due to closing of contract centers returns to the general CCDF account, it is not specifically reserved for the direct contract centers' use; and (d) funding, rather than need, for child care affects the number of children served.

There was general discussion concerning whether the federal law requires a copayment, the costs to administer copayments, the effect of decreased funding on the working poor, and defining "working poor" according to eligibility for the earned income tax credit.

Ms. Eiler provided information concerning the Indiana Accreditation Project, which provides assistance to child care providers in becoming accredited by an independent accrediting organization. She provided a handout concerning tiered reimbursement under CCDF for licensed and accredited child care providers⁶, and discussed timelines, costs, and benefits of accreditation.

Ms. Eiler provided handouts reflecting: (a) geographic locations and capacities of child care homes,

²Attachment 1.

³Attachment 2.

⁴Attachment 3.

⁵Attachment 4.

⁶Attachment 5.

centers, and ministries in Indiana during 2001, 2002, and 2003;⁷ (b) geographic locations of child care homes, centers and ministries that declined CCDF participation following implementation of minimum standards;⁸ and (c) geographic locations of different types of child care providers related to income levels in those locations.⁹ There was general discussion concerning the information contained in the handouts including: (a) application of minimum standards to various providers; (b) public education about finding quality child care; (c) community resources available to assist people in finding child care; and (d) reasons that providers decline to participate in CCDF. Ms. Eiler agreed to provide information concerning the types of providers that declined to participate following minimum standard implementation.

Ms. Eiler provided information concerning the current status of families that were previously eligible for CCDF, but are no longer eligible due to the change in eligibility criteria in October, 2002.¹⁰

Employer/private sector participation related to child care

Carole Stein provided a handout and discussed A New Child Care Affordability Strategy.¹¹ She emphasized the need for public/private partnerships in making child care more available and affordable in Indiana. She discussed work done in Florida during the past 5 years, recommended the establishment of an employer child care study committee, and requested legislative support for an Indiana roundtable on child care financing. Rep. Crawford requested that Rep. Budak, Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Murray, and Natalie Wolfe work as a subcommittee of the Board and report back to the Board at the next two meetings concerning this issue. There was general discussion concerning incentives for businesses to become more involved in child care.

Jan Keltz, Development Director, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral and Project Coordinator, Business Partnership Specialist program, provided a handout and discussed the Indiana Business Partnership Specialist program.¹² She provided updated information concerning employer participation in child care, types of investments employers are making, and types of employers participating. She stated that employee comments tend to be a predominant reason that employers decide to participate in child care.

Tina Mahern, President, Indiana Child Care Fund, provided two handouts¹³ concerning the Indiana Child Care Fund and described the history and various projects undertaken by the Fund. She emphasized the need for participation in resolution of child care issues by diverse segments of the community and the Indiana General Assembly, and the Fund's role.

⁷Attachment 6.

⁸Attachment 7.

⁹Attachment 8.

¹⁰Attachment 9.

¹¹Attachment 10.

¹²Attachment 11.

¹³Attachment 12.

Candice Lange, Director, Human Resources, Eli Lilly and Co., provided a handout¹⁴ and described the history of Lilly's involvement in child care for employees and in the community, including: (a) employee surveys; (b) on site child care centers; (c) work with independent child care providers; and (d) other methods of meeting child care needs of Lilly employees. She stated that employee requests for child care and the desire to be an employer that would be attractive to individuals that Lilly wanted to recruit as employees were strong reasons for Lilly's interest in participating in child care. Ms. Lange also emphasized the need for community involvement to better meet child care needs and stated that there are various ways and cost levels through which employers can assist employees in child care needs.

Theresa Jolivette, Director, Health Care Policy, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Chamber's interest in promoting employer involvement in child care. She informed the Board about the Chamber's new annual award for child care friendly employers. Ms. Jolivette described educational outreach assistance through which employers are informed of various means of assisting employees with child care needs, i.e., flex time. She stated that the increasing cost of employee health benefits sometimes takes precedence for employers, especially small employers. Rep. Budak requested that Ms. Jolivette participate in the subcommittee formed by Rep. Crawford.

There was general discussion concerning means of employer involvement in child care.

Preschool regulation

Rep. Budak introduced Sen. Mrvan who was in attendance due to his interest in preschool regulation.

Jan Levy, Child Care Professional Network, stated that a facility that provides care to children should be regulated regardless of how many hours the facility operates. She emphasized that preschools should be required to meet the same criteria as any other entity that cares for children, and that extended periods are not required for a child to be abused or neglected. She provided examples of some requirements that might apply to preschools. There was general discussion concerning Head Start, affordability, and quality of preschools. Rep. Budak emphasized the need to educate the public and the legislature concerning preschool regulation.

Pat Cole, Project Coordinator, Healthy Child Care Indiana, provided a copy of Stepping Stones.¹⁵ She emphasized the need for protection of any child who is cared for at any location other than the child's residence, and that minimum standards are necessary to prevent morbidity and mortality. She noted that Indiana is ranked highest in number of deaths in child care in the United States. Rep. Budak requested that when this issue arises during the legislative session, Ms. Cole provide a brief statement to each legislator in the General Assembly concerning the health and safety needs of children in child care. Ms. Cole provided handouts concerning child care licensing requirements in various states in the United States for distribution to the members.¹⁶

There was general discussion of the issue including: (a) injuries and deaths in license exempt homes; (b) financial penalties for violations; (c) methods of affecting preschools; (d) pilot preschools in public schools; and (e) differences between minimum standards for licensure of child care centers and standards that apply to schools.

¹⁴Attachment 13.

¹⁵Attachment 14.

¹⁶Attachment 15.

The next meeting of the Board was tentatively scheduled for October, 7, 2003, at 1:00 p.m., subject to confirmation by Rep. Crawford who had been called out of the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Budak adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.